



# CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2016

9:30 AM

Point Blue Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA

Note: The following meeting notes are an account of discussions at the meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS). The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of CBNMS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

### **Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome** (George Clyde)

George Clyde, Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:29 AM and welcomed everyone. Lilli Ferguson, advisory council coordinator, then called roll.

### Members and Alternates Present:

George Clyde (Chair; Community-at-Large – Marin County)

Mike Cummings (Community-at-Large - Marin County Alt.)

Bill Wolpert (Community-at-Large-Sonoma County)

Sarah Hameed (Community-at-Large – Sonoma County Alt.)

Lance Morgan (Conservation)

Todd Steiner (Conservation Alt.)

Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook (Education)

Richard Ogg (Fishing)

Kevin Krick (Maritime Activities)

John Berge (Maritime Activities Alt.)

Jaime Jahncke (Research)

### Agency Representatives and Alternates Present:

Brian Johnson (GFNMS Alt.)

Dayna Matthews (NOAA Fisheries)

### Members of the CBNMS staff present:

Dan Howard (Sanctuary Superintendent)

Lilli Ferguson (Resource Protection Specialist and advisory council coordinator)

Danielle Lipski (Research Coordinator)

Jennifer Stock (Education and Outreach Coordinator)

### **Review and Approve Agenda** (George)

The agenda was reviewed and unanimously approved by the advisory council

### **Review and Approve November Meeting Minutes** (George)

The November 5, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed. Sarah Hameed said in her remarks under Members' and Alternates' Reports, it said, "The 'Gateway' effort has been generating some angst due to its slow pace, but planning meetings are coming up." She said the real reason is it has been generating some angst is due to "the lack of inclusion in the process" up until now. Some residents feel the plans are not in line with they would support. With the addition of that change, the minutes were unanimously approved by the advisory council.

### **Overview of Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit (George and Lilli)**

- George said the Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit was an important meeting.
  - At the Summit, the status of hiring to replace former Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Director Dan Basta on a permanent basis and filling other position was a topic of discussion. It may take a year to get someone in place in the Director position. There will likely be both internal and external candidates. George has not observed any blip in leadership staff or on policy matters.
  - The proposed expansions and new national marine sanctuaries were reviewed. Things seemed positive in terms of future support for sanctuaries. The focus on adding new components of the system will shape the system for years to come.
  - Jim Landon, Director of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), led an interesting session, reviewing the office's activities, structure and plans for hiring new personnel.
  - There was a field trip, walking around downtown Annapolis, to the waterfront, which has nuisance flooding, when there are high tides and storms together. In 1960s it flooded four days a year, and now it is forty days a year. Both the city and Naval Academy are planning for the rising sea level. The city is planning out fifty years, while the Naval Academy is planning out 100 years. The costs will be large.
  - John Largier, Chair of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GNFMS) Advisory Council, and Maria Brown, GNFMS Superintendent, discussed the GNFMS Advisory Council Climate Change Working Group, and its recommendations and reports, which were done in conjunction with CBNMS. Not every sanctuary is as involved at GNFMS in sea level rise, but there was a lot of interest in all the science and methodology that went into preparing the working group's recommendations.
  - The ONMS Strategic plan is being updated, and the chairs would like to provide input.
  - There was a two hour session with chairs and John Armor. There will be follow up discussions via email among advisory council chairs before the next advisory council summit.
- Following up on the climate change theme, it was announced that GNFMS is planning a climate change summit May 17, followed by a training session on May 18. Per a request from the advisory council, Lilli will share the "Save the Date" information. The climate change agenda should come out soon, and there are a number of partners.
- Lilli noted she attended the Advisory Council Summit as the West Coast Region Council Executive Committee Representative.
  - She talked about the planning for and participation at this Summit, and provided some history about the evolution of the meeting. The first national advisory council meeting was attended by just advisory council coordinators and ONMS staff, in 2000. Advisory council chairs joined that group at a national meeting in 2001. For planning some of these national meetings, there was a committee of advisory council coordinators, chairs and national ONMS staff who worked together to form the agendas. The meeting planning and attendee list has changed in the last five years or so, with not as much involvement from the site sanctuary staff and advisory council chairs in agenda planning and a smaller list of attendees.
  - Part of the value of the national meetings is in getting to know chairs and coordinators and the issues of importance to their councils.
  - There was a session on communicating climate change. Participants learned how to use metaphors and people's values to communicate the mechanisms of climate change and what might be done. The ONMS climate team staff is willing to provide this training to full advisory councils, for those councils that are interested. One possibility is to have a webinar just for the CBNMS Advisory Council.
  - The two-hour Council Executive Committee session focused on the committee's role and planning ahead for the year.

### **Sanctuary Superintendent's Report (Dan)**

- Dan Basta retired as ONMS Director. John Armor is the Acting Director. The position will be advertised later in the year it is hoped it can be filled this fiscal year.
- Jason Patlis, head the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, is resigning in April.
- Charles Lester was dismissed as director of the Coastal Commission. It was a little surprising the commission voted to release him, as there was a deluge of public support for him.
- The CBNMS FY16 budget represents a slight increase from last year, but site operational expenses have increased so it is a net decline in funding for the site. CBNMS received a \$125,000, one-time addition that covers two part time contractors and a portion of our Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) program. Dan will request additional funding for this. CBNMS did not receive any addition to its base budget to cover requests related to the expansion of the sanctuary, like additional sampling in expansion area, salary for our research assistant, an educational specialist, or funding for a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) cruise. If new sanctuary sites do not come with additional funding, that will be a problem for the system.
- There was an inquiry if a letter from the advisory council regarding funding could help; Dan responded it would not hurt to let people know the advisory council was paying attention to funding. There was further discussion of the overall issue. The advisory council was reminded that there are rules regarding contacting members of Congress; people may only do so as individuals. The Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation can contact members of Congress. Perhaps ideas regarding support could be discussed at the August joint meeting with the GFNMS Advisory Council.
- The CBNMS photo exhibit will be at the Gualala Arts Center in June and will open with a reception.
- The San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival is March 10 - 13, with over 50 films from 13 countries. There is a gala on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting the student film competition on Sunday and show the top three middle school films and the top ten high school films. There were over 100 entries this year; the entries have doubled every year since the competition began four years ago.
- Dan, Maria, and the foundations have been working with the Point Arena theater on an April 9 film festival, with films leased from the San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival. Jennifer Stock, CBNMS Education Coordinator, will be there. There will be three sessions, and family activities. There is also a whale and jazz festival that weekend.
- Dan and some advisory council members received a request to interview from a consulting firm doing surveys on sanctuary management; other may receive similar requests. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and others are funding the study.

### **CBNMS Research, Education and Resource Protection Reports (Danielle, Jennifer, and Dan [for Michael Carver])**

- Research: Danielle Lipski, CBNMS Research Coordinator, reported on the status of upcoming CBNMS research projects. Three ACCESS cruises are planned; incomplete funding was received, as Dan noted. The first is in May on the NOAA ship, SHIMADA, for nine days. This reduces costs for the field season as funding comes from the NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. It is a larger ship that can take more people and operate 24 hours a day. They hope to do some nighttime multibeam mapping of the seafloor, and have requested the NOAA Office of Coast Survey to send a technician to collect the data. The other two ACCESS cruises are planned for July and September.
- This year's budget does not provide funding for CBNMS benthic characterization by ROV this year. Products from the previous CBNMS ROV mission should be available soon. Funding was received for a new camera for the ROV.
- It may be possible to take advantage of Bob Ballard's research vessel, Nautilus, when it is in the area this summer. They focus on explorations and want to find new things. She has been contributing to the planning process, and hopes there will be some dives in CBNMS. One of the suggested targets is the ship [the ex-USS Stewart] thought to be in Bodega Canyon. Voucher specimens from the Nautilus would be sent to a university on the East Coast. If CBNMS collects specimens, they voucher them at the California Academy of Sciences.

- CBNMS has been working on scientific sampling goals and hopes to hold a workshop with experts on a long term benthic sampling strategy.
- One of the two hypoxia monitoring moorings was recently retrieved from CBNMS. The data from it did not show as much of a hypoxia signal compared to the previous year. She hopes to get out more hypoxia moorings this year.
- Education: Jennifer reported GFNMS would also be involved with the Nautilus expedition; she and Carol Preston of GFNMS may be coordinating on public events at the Exploratorium.
- The Point Reyes Lighthouse Ocean Exploration Center is 90% done. A correction was needed on one large panel, and should be delivered soon. She will keep the advisory council posted about a public opening event.
- CBNMS got a grant to bring kids to the beach in Sonoma County for the “Every Kid in a Park” program – ten classes of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. It is a good opportunity to work with partners in the area.
- She is coordinating an Earth Day event the evening of April 22 with the Oakland Museum of California, which will include films from the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival and an albatross bolus dissection.
- There will be an event April 30 for Dia de las Niñas, at Campbell Cove, aimed to encourage the Sonoma County Latino community to come to special areas.
- Get into Your Sanctuary Day this year will be a beach day and campfire June 25, likely at Doran Regional Park.
- The CBNMS photo exhibit is at the Petaluma library. In June it will be at the Gualala Arts Center.
- The Teacher at Sea program will take place on the SHIMADA this year; she has been reviewing applications from teachers.
- Resource Protection Report: Dan reported for Michael, the Resource Protection Coordinator, on the voluntary vessel speed reduction effort in 2015, a letter went out November, to shipping industry representatives thanking them and letting them know the season, which began May 1, had concluded, on November 15. In the coming year, CBNMS is looking at vessel Automatic Identification System data to assess the industry’s commitment to the effort and at following up with companies. He showed a graphic with a track line of a vessel approaching San Francisco Bay and how it slowed down. A vessel struck a whale August 24. Much of the work is being based on a similar project at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. There was a suggestion that it might be good if vessel operators got a verbal reminder of the voluntary vessel speed reduction at each check in, or maybe something could be done with the virtual lanes and buoys with respect to the request to slow down.
- Michael is working with Danielle Schwartzmann of ONMS on modeling impacts to the industry of the voluntary vessel speed reduction.
- The UC Davis/SeaDoc Society marine debris removal project resulted in removal of over 200 crab pots.
- Lilli, CBNMS permit coordinator, provided an overview of sanctuary permits for activities that would otherwise be prohibited in CBNMS, and recent activities under the permits. There are permits for: a NOAA weather buoy, #46013 (data from it may be accessed at [www.ndbc.noaa.gov](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov)); a fishermen-led crab gear recovery project, in which Dick Ogg was a key participant; National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Hake acoustic integrated trawl surveys and groundfish bottom trawl surveys; a Coastal Data Information Program buoy off Point Reyes (data from it may be accessed at <https://cdip.ucsd.edu/>); a Bay Area Underwater Explorers project to explore and monitor Cordell Bank; the Superintendent’s permit for sanctuary management activities; NMFS marine mammal and sea turtle assessment and ecosystem research; and NMFS Pacific Orcinus distribution surveys.

### **Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF) Update** (Bob Van Syoc and Tom Lambert)

- Bob Van Syoc, CMSF President, said there has been an increase in private donations; he appreciated the support of George and others at the meeting. He hoped the donor base could be expanded in 2016. Seven donations came from Amazon Smile. He spoke with Audrey Milner of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) about grants from private foundations. He will work with the CBNMS staff on possible foundations to approach. The NMSF has a database of foundation and can help with creating a short list. He also hopes to collaborate with the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association. A lot of foundations like to see collaborative work.
- There will be a CMSF advertisement in the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival program which will include a Quick Response code for cellphones.
- CMSF and the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association are supporting the Point Arena Film Festival.
- At the June Gualala CBNMS photo exhibit, CMSF will be there promoting CMSF activities.
- Tom Lambert, past CMSF President and current board member, gave an overview of the NMSF. Based in Silver Spring, MD, it was created to assist ONMS with education and outreach, and has moved on to fundraising and being an advocate of the system. There is a Gray's Reef chapter and a Hawaii chapter, and they hope to add a chapter for Flower Garden Banks.
- The NMSF has an Ernest F. Hollings grant this year. CMSF may apply next year, but would need a partner.
- The NMSF gives out Team OCEAN grants, which can be used for volunteer programs and events with informational tables.
- The NMSF hosts Capitol Hill Ocean Week in June in Washington, DC. The event involved sanctuary promotion, networking, awards, and more. He went to it in 2006, and advocated for increased appropriations for the sanctuary system.
- Sometimes the NMSF receives settlement or penalty funds as a result of enforcement judgments, to be used for things like mitigation of environmental damages, as determined by the Department of Justice. The NMSF then determines where to apply to funds.
- Other things the NMSF staff does are: hold monthly calls with local sanctuary friends groups, assist them with grant writing, and assist them with letter writing.

### **NOAA Habitat Blueprint – Russian River Habitat Focus Area Status** (Joshua Fuller)

- Dan introduced Joshua Fuller of the NMFS, and thanked him for coming. Natalie Cosentino-Manning and Josh spearheaded the implementation of the blueprint; they are co-coordinators. Dan was involved for a year and a half with the NOAA group that selected the Russian River watershed as the first NOAA habitat focus area. The idea is to bring all parts of NOAA together in working on habitat issues.
- Josh noted he came in after the focus area was selected. Natalie works on issues with headquarters, funding, etc. and he works on the watershed problems and getting the resources from the various parts of NOAA working on solving them. One goal to infuse habitat into all the NOAA line offices, to improve the way business is done, in a non-regulatory framework.
- The Russian River projects are organized in tiers; the upper tier is NOAA-collaborative projects, which may also involve partners, and the second tier are projects by habitat conservation partners. The third tier is complementary initiatives, such as a U.S. Geological Survey water project.
- Primary project objectives are rebuilding endangered coho salmon and threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead stocks to sustainable levels through habitat protection and restoration; improving frost, rainfall, and river forecasts in the Russian River watershed through improved data collection and modeling; and increasing community and ecosystem resiliency to flooding and drought through improved planning and water management strategies.
- He provided an overview of the NOAA collaborative projects: improving forecasting of rain and river flows for reservoir and fisheries management; the hydrology of Russian River tributaries; improving frost prediction for protecting vineyards; water quality monitoring and estuarine habitat for salmon; climate change and sea level rise; NOAA stream gauge network; and coastal monitoring for the status and trends

of salmonids. He also gave an example of a partner project, use of a water tank at Westminster Woods instead of drawing stream water for irrigating a sports field.

- Planning meetings are held every three months.

### **Public Comment**

- There was none.

### **U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Wastewater and Training Discharges in CBNMS and GFNMS (Dan)**

- Dan briefly reviewed the fact that the USCG has a temporary exemption from NOAA from complying with the CBNMS and GFNMS discharge prohibitions in the expanded areas of the two sanctuaries. This stems from concerns the USCG had raised during the rulemaking process to expand the sanctuaries. The exemption was initially for six months, then it was extended for another six months.

- The USCG has some concern the discharge prohibitions would interfere with their normal missions as well as some of their trainings exercises. They don't have [Type I or II] marine sanitation devices (MSDs) on their vessels which treat sewage, and with the larger sanctuary areas, it now takes more time to get outside the sanctuaries' boundaries to discharge. For small arms and search and rescue training the USCG used to do it in what is now the expansion areas of the sanctuaries.

- The USCG is one of our best partners, doing surveillance, enforcement, spill response, working with the commercial shipping industry and ports, assisting NOAA with the voluntary speed reduction, and more.

- We have been working on drafting an environmental assessment; Lilli is working on that for CBNMS. Our headquarters and the USCG higher levels are also involved, which makes it a little complex. While we are focused on CBNMS and GFNMS, the issue is something that could be addressed in all sanctuaries, though all have slightly different regulations.

- Dan asked if there are potential things the advisory council members and their constituents request NOAA consider as part of this process, such as conflicts between the USCG discharges and the activities of other groups utilizing the sanctuaries.

- One advisory council member noted he has heard the USCG conducting training near Cordell Bank. Also, in the past, a then-advisory council member, Chuck Wise, stated the area under consideration at that time for USCG training exercises was right in the area fishermen troll for salmon. During certain months, it would be very disruptive for the fishermen to stay away from that area. Fishermen also fish out there at night for black cod, with fixed gear.

- One of the advisory council members recommended this be addressed at the national level; the USCG should spend the money to get the MSDs that treat sewage onto their vessels.

- Dan said the USCG reported its vessels are sometimes out on patrol longer than their tanks can hold sewage, now that the two sanctuaries are larger.

- An advisory council member commented that the commercial vessel fleet is being asked to hold a lot effluent, and are complying with the regulations. The commercial shipping industry is working to be able to hold such effluent for a long time.

- The CBNMS and GFNMS staff continue to work on a draft environmental assessment with regional and headquarters input. It will be released for public comment. A joint advisory council meeting, such as in August, would be a perfect time for the advisory councils to discuss it. Releasing the draft for public comment depends on factors such as internal writing and review, approval at the various government levels, etc. After a comment period on an environmental document closes, the comments are considered, and a final document is released. If significant impacts are deemed likely to occur, a full environmental impact statement could be done. If NOAA proposed a regulation, it would go through similar steps.

- If anyone has any concrete facts or knowledge of impacts to contribute at this point, please email Dan and cc Lilli.

### **NOAA OLE Report** (Dayna Matthews)

- Dayna Matthews reviewed findings of an Inspector General report from seven years ago, which stated OLE was overstepping its authority nationwide and bringing undue hardship to fishermen in the Northeast. This has since been refuted, and that Inspector General resigned.
- The NOAA Assistant Administrator at the time, Jane Lubchenco, required changes of OLE. The OLE Director was fired, and hiring was frozen for special agents nationwide. With that freeze still in place, a mandatory retirement age of 57 for agents, and lateral transfer opportunities, the OLE technical staff size is down, over 60%. After four more retire this year, there will be only six agents.
- Since the release of the report, OLE has gone through six directors (including interim and acting). A new director, Jim Landon, started last August.
- OLE has a new staffing report, completed in December; it was based on quantitative and qualitative analyses. In the needs assessment, the West Coast and Bay Area did well. Following release of the report, the assistant directors are trying to figure out where to distribute the positions. Dayna is excited about what the staffing plan will mean for the California national marine sanctuaries. The staffing plan may be released publicly within a week after this advisory council meeting.
- Dayna works on sanctuaries, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and habitat. He has been able to talk with Jim three times and Jim is receptive to hearing about law enforcement on the West Coast. Recently, Jim met with two sanctuary superintendents, Paul Michel of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and Chris Mobley of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Topics of discussion included the sanctuaries' law enforcement needs and OLE's responsibilities in sanctuaries.
- OLE has the money to support full time equivalent employees and the authority to hire new staff, but the freeze is still in effect and the plan will need to be adopted by the Department of Commerce. Also, the hiring process can take a while. However, there are strategies in place to avoid previous problems OLE experienced in the hiring process.
- Dayna is attending all the advisory council meetings on the West Coast, and his goal is to attend at least two meetings per sanctuary per year.
- An OLE Supervisory Enforcement Officer, Brian Christy, has been hired and will be in place in mid May, based in Alameda. He formerly was a Florida Fish and Wildlife enforcement officer.

### **Members' and Alternates' Reports** (advisory council)

- Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook: She provided an update on staff changes at the Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA). Its future objectives are to expand partnerships, outreach, and education programs.
- PRNSA got an "Every Kid in a Park" grant, and has a lot of programs planned, with a focus on 4<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - PRNSA also received funding for her program, so she is looking to expand it in the future.
  - Point Reyes National Seashore has been experiencing increased visitation, and had a lot of visitors over President's Day weekend.

Brian Johnson: GFNMS is having a soiree April 2 with the theme of sea otters, at the San Francisco Zoo.

- GFNMS just released a Fishermen in the Classroom video, on how cool fishermen are and the importance of conserving fisheries.
- A GFNMS volunteer appreciation event is being held the evening of 2/25 at the Bay Model in Sausalito.
- There was recently a vessel grounding that GFNMS responded to, at Bodega Head.
- The Luckenbach, an old shipwreck in GFNMS, is burping oil again, and birds are getting oiled. Some Beachwatch volunteers have found tarballs, which were sent for testing to try to determine their origin.
- GFNMS is also planning for the ACCESS cruises.
- In March, there will be an announcement of a significant maritime heritage finding. Also, a survey is planned of former dog hole port sites along the coast.
- GFNMS is engaged with three federally-recognized tribes on the issue of certification, and has met recently with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. A meeting is scheduled with the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians. The third tribe is the Manchester Band of Pomo Indians.

Dayna: He reported on tagging mooring buoys in GFNMS, in Tomales Bay. The tags let people know they need to register the mooring buoys with the California State Lands Commission or move them off of eelgrass. He explained the overall project related to moorings and eelgrass, which has been conducted for some time now. They are down to about eight mooring buoys for which they have not been able to be in contact with the owners. Those mooring buoys that are not claimed by owners will need to be removed. For the others, GFNMS will have a program to permit moorings.

Kevin Krick: He had an early preview of the display at the lighthouse at Point Reyes, and thought it was impressive.

Todd Steiner: He reported Turtle Island Restoration Network has a new project, 10,000 Redwoods, to sequester carbon. College of Marin is growing redwoods for them, and teachers are involved.

- In the Lagunitas Creek Watershed, there are 271 salmon redds, more than the previous year.
- A streamside conservation ordinance he has been working to get in place in a decade may go into place soon; he has an upcoming meeting with a county supervisor.
- A bill will be introduced within 30 days to phase out the California drift gillnet fishery, which is state and federally managed. People will testify on this topic and propose phasing out the fishery at the next Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting.
- The recent firing of Dr. Charles Lester from the California Coastal Commission, in a closed session, was counter to the public comments supporting him. This matter has invigorated the environmental community, and he said people are working on related bills.
- Turtle Island Restoration Network received a grant to work with Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in Texas.
- Also, they will give six scholarships to Latinos as part of a Bay Area-wide education program.

Dick: Regarding the crab pot recovery program, which he and others started in this area last year, he noted when the weather is difficult, it is hard to go look for lost crab pots. They like to try to do it in October when there is not much current. Ropes tend to get a lot of growth, then surface floats are submerged and difficult to see. He retrieved 18 pots and 27 ropes/buoys out of Bodega Bay and two folks out of San Francisco retrieved 182 pots. He would like to see the practice stopped, in which some fishermen leave the pots out in "winter storage." Pots also sometime fall off boats in rough weather. The Bodega Bay Fishermen's Association wants people to buy into this crab pot removal project. One thing they are trying to work out is the legal details of the buyback of pots by the legal owners. The crab pot recovery program gives a little more incentive and income to the fishermen who bring pots back.

- He is part of the state testing program for domoic acid in crabs, out of Bodega Bay; they still have crabs with too high of a level of domoic acid to meet the standard. He would like to see the state open the fishery all at once, but below Point Reyes, recreational fishermen can now take crabs. The crabs will be getting ready to spawn soon.

John Berge: He recently attended a conference on transfer of aquatic invasive species by ships. A lot of things are happening now on the policy and regulatory sides, at different levels. The net result is the technology developers do not know what they need to do to qualify. Maybe in another year we might see USCG-certified systems, which companies could start purchasing and installing on their ships. An international treaty on this is also being ratified.

Jaime Jahnke: He provided two handouts on El Niño, and discussed the water anomalies going on in the ocean, including the warm water blob in the Gulf of Alaska. The blob created high pressure systems, so we have not gotten the rain yet we would have expected during El Niño. Most people think there will be a La Niña sometime in mid summer. The blob may come back when the storm season is over.

- He showed a summary of ACCESS results over 10 years.



- Whale Alert has had about 36 reports this year from the Channel Islands and two from the Farallones.

Sarah Hameed: She announced Tessa Hill was awarded a Presidential scientist award for her excellent work.

- People in Sonoma County are frustrated about what happened at the California Coastal Commission.

- The issue of installing iron rangers (pay stations) at Sonoma Coast State Park, where fees have never been charged, is still a concern. California State Parks rolled out a new plan the week before the advisory council meeting, which, if implemented, would have a mix for the beaches of regular rangers collecting fees, iron rangers for collecting fees, and no fees. Some local folks do not feel the plan alleviates all of their fears.

- Cat Kuhlman was unappointed from the Ocean Protection Council.

- The Ocean Science Trust has been unsuccessful in finding an Executive Director.

- The current list of the Bodega Marine Laboratory seminar series has been updated, and Lilli will send it to the advisory council.

- The Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival is April 9 and 10.

Lance Morgan: He mentioned ESRI has developed a three-dimensional model of the oceans and a marine protected areas tool.

- Ocean Sanctuaries Live is working with the United Nations' sustainable development goal; he will be attending a meeting in Rome to advise about trying to get to the goals.

Bill Wolpert: There is a county-wide climate action plan in Sonoma County, informed by a broad-based advisory group. There will be a report coming out soon on the nine communities' strategies.

George adjourned the meeting at 3:10 PM.